



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.2417 | FAX (517) 373.2694
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/bishop/

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Contact: Dennis Darnoi
Phone: 517-373-2417

Sen. Bishop urges use of child-restraint seats during Child Passenger Safety Week

Lansing — As part of National Child Passenger Safety Week, Feb. 8-14, Sen. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, encourages parents to keep their children safe while traveling.

“Nothing is more important than the health and safety of your children,” Bishop said. “Using a child safety seat helps save lives and prevent injuries.”

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of accidental death for children age 0-15 according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. In 2002, 49 child passengers age 0-15 died and 7,232 were injured in traffic crashes in Michigan.

Child restraint seats are one of the best ways to protect children on the road. As a cosponsor of a Senate resolution recognizing National Child Passenger Safety Week, Bishop offered parents and child caregivers these safety reminders:

- Face infant seats to the rear in the back seat from birth to at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds.
- Face safety seats forward in the back seat from age 1 to about age 4 and 20 to 40 pounds.
- Place booster seats in the back seat from about age 4 and 40 pounds to at least age 8, unless 4 feet, 9 inches tall.
- Use safety belts at age 8 or older, or taller than 4 feet, 9 inches. All children 12 and younger should ride in the back seat.
- Buckle up! Children learn by example.

Child Passenger Safety Week is a national effort to tout the benefits of child safety seats on every trip, every time. For more information, contact Bishop’s office toll-free at 1-877-9-BISHOP or visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

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